



Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor

Illinois

Authorized August 24, 1984

Years since Designation

1984

2002

Management Entity Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission (federally authorized commission)

Management Plan Status approved

Square Mileage of Counties in Heritage Area 3,672

2000 Census Data

Data	2000 Census	Percent Change from 1990
<i>Total Population</i>	6,932,212	+8.6
<i>Persons under 18 Years</i>	26.9	+1
<i>Persons 25-44 Years</i>	31.0	-5.7
<i>Persons Over 65 Years</i>	11.7	-2.3
<i>White Alone, Percent</i>	78.0	-10.3
<i>Hispanic Origin, Percent</i>	9.4	+62
<i>Black or African American, Percent</i>	8.3	+4.3
<i>Median Household Income (2000 \$)</i>	57,969	+18.6
<i>Percent Unemployed</i>	4.9	-16.8
<i>Percent Below Poverty Level</i>	6.8	-16.9

Resources Profile

<i>Number of National Register Properties</i>	431
<i>Number of National Historic Landmarks</i>	51
<i>National Natural Landmarks</i>	2
<i>National Park Units</i>	0

Congressional Districts 13

Local Government Units 1,067



Profile

This canal was built in the 1830s and '40s along the portage between Lake Michigan and the Illinois River, which had long been used as an American Indian trade route. The canal rapidly transformed Chicago from an isolated crossroads into a critical transportation hub between the East and the developing Midwest. A 61-mile recreational trail follows the canal towpath.

Contact Information

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